the declining quality and quantum of scientific research in India, a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.M. Sharma was constituted by the Central Govt, for basic Scientific Research in universities. In its Report, the Task Force has *inter alia,* recommended creation of 1000 positions of Research Scientists at various levels, five fold increase in the number of Ph.Ds from Indian universities within a span of ten years with proper standards, promotion of formal linkage between the Universities and national level institutions including the CSIR laboratories through joint research projects and training, inbuilt component of research in post-graduate programmes pertaining to Science and Technology, upgradation of infrastructural facilities in universities to promote quality scientifc research, and, creation of networking centres in Basic Sciences in leading Departments of Universities to promote collaborative research.

(c) and (d) The University Grants Commission has taken initiative for augmenting the research and teaching resources of Universities, through its Scheme entitled 'Faculty recharge' under which creation of 200 faculty position has been approved, in principle.

Regime for private education providers

626. SHRIMATI S.G INDIRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government favours a less restrictive regime for private education providers especially *vis-a-vis* fees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a suitably facilitative environment should be created to allow private sector participation in higher education; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) According to the National Policy on Education, 1986, as modified in 1992, non-profit making private education providers are permitted to participate in education sector in the country. However, private institutions can generate only reasonable surplus of revenues by way of fee for use in the development of

the institution in terms of the various pronouncements of the Supreme Court of India.

Schemes for SC, ST and OBC students

627. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing the schemes for SC, ST and OBC, students in some States;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(c) the allocation made and utilized each year for each category;

(d) whether there is a demand from States that scholarships should be increased to suit the present living conditions; and

(e) if so, the action taken, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a)to(c) Most of the schemes of this Ministry are general in nature aimed at benefiting all sections of the society including SCs, STs and OBCs. However, almost all schemes benefit SC, ST and OBC students in all States/UTs. The schemes with a special focus on the first two or all three of these groups, the total allocation and utilization of funds under these schemes during the last 3 years are as follows:

(Rupees in Crore)

Scheme	2003-04 Allocation	Utilization	2004-05 Allocation	Utilization	2005-06 Allocation	Utilization
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
(i) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan	2698.38	3053.91*	5113.14	6591.15*	7517.71	9985.17*
(ii) Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyaiayasm	Scheme was launched in 2004-05		92.57	N.A.	223.63	N.A.
(iii) Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas	569.56	554.68	588.66	587.22	721.85	730.20